

REMARKS

Claims 16-36 and 46-60 are pending in this application, with claims 16, 22, 28, 46, 51 and 56 being independent. Claims 16, 20-22, 26-28, 34, 35, 46, 49-51, 54-56, 59 and 60 have been amended. In particular, independent claims 16, 22, 28, 46, 51 and 56 have been amended to recite "forming an active layer comprising a plurality of semiconductor islands arranged in parallel to each other over a substrate." Support for this amendment may be found in the application at least at pages 6, 7 and 11, and at Fig. 3. No new matter has been introduced.

Independent claims 16, 22, 28, 46, 51 and 56, and their dependent claims 17-19, 21, 23-25, 27, 29-33, 47, 48, 50, 52-55, 57, 58 and 60, have been rejected as being anticipated by Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,198,133). Claims 20, 26, 34, 49 and 54, which depend from claims 16, 22, 28, 46, 51 and 56, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Yamazaki.

Each of independent claims 16, 22, 28, 46, 51 and 56, as amended, recites, among other features, forming an active layer that includes a plurality of semiconductor islands arranged in parallel to each other over a substrate. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 16, 22, 28, 46, 51 and 56, and their dependent claims, because Yamazaki does not describe or suggest forming such an active layer.

Yamazaki describes an electro-optical device having a silicon nitride interlayer insulating film. As shown, for example, in Figs. 6A-6F of Yamazaki, the active layer of each TFT described by Yamazaki does not include a plurality of semiconductor islands arranged in parallel to each other over a substrate. Rather, each TFT has a single island-like active layer 603, 604 made of silicon positioned over a substrate 601.

For at least this reason, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 16, 22, 28, 46, 51 and 56, and their dependent claims.

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

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Applicants do not believe there are any fees due in connection with this filing. However, if such fees are deemed appropriate by the Examiner, the USPTO is hereby authorized to apply such charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



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